

## European/EU economic studies curricula

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Veröffentlichungsversion / Published Version

Zeitschriftenartikel / journal article

### Empfohlene Zitierung / Suggested Citation:

Toca, C. V., & Soproni, L. (2012). European/EU economic studies curricula. *The Romanian Journal of International Relations and European Studies*, 1(1), 67-84. <https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-420354>

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# European/EU Economic Studies Curricula<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** *This paper is analysing one of the most dynamic fields of EU studies, the Economic Studies, which is, in the same time, a classic and a permanently new and changeable domain, offering a comprehensive coverage of European economic integration. This assertion is also confirmed by the fact that the EU Economic Studies come in second position in point of projects funded by Jean Monnet Action.*

*The study takes into consideration three subfields of EU Economic Studies: European Economy, European Management, and Europe and Global Economy, tracing their evolution in twelve European countries.*

*The curricular database of these subfields has been the support needed to seize the development of curricula in EU Economic Studies through internal elements contributing to its development - the dynamics of specializations, the role of mobility in various ways for crossing the disciplinary/transdisciplinary and national /transnational borders, or the role of NTIC in developing the curricula. Finally, it is the same curricular database that has helped us follow the EU Economic Studies curricula development depending on external stimuli: evolution of curricula according to the European agenda and its level of knowledge, and the impact of Jean Monnet Programme in developing the European Studies curricula in the field.*

**Key words:** *European Union; Economic; University; curricula.*

The field of EU Economic Studies holds a core place in the field of European Studies as it has been shown by most activities to assess curricula activities carried out so far. According to the quantitative analysis carried out on EU Economic Studies courses in universities scattered throughout twelve European countries in the academic year 2008/2009, this field holds the fourth position in point of number of courses<sup>2</sup> and the second position in point of projects funded by Jean Monnet Action. EU Economic Studies are more developed in Central and Eastern European countries than in Western Europe, particularly big countries (such as France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom).

When analysing the titles of the courses and specializations teaching courses in EU Economic Studies, we have noticed that they can be divided into three subfields: *European Economy, European Management, and Europe and Global Economy.*

In the subfield of *European Economy*, we have grouped courses into the following types: *European Economy, European Labour Market, European Market and Monetary*

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<sup>1</sup> The paper, *European/EU Economic Studies Curricula*, was published in The Romanian Journal of International Relations and European Studies, 2012, vol.1, p.67-84

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<sup>2</sup> Almost 11% of the courses on European Studies belong to the field of EU Economic Studies. The following from the 12 countries assessed by us rank over the average: Lithuania (18.13%), Denmark (18.01%), Belgium (17.3%), Portugal (15.92%), Poland (15.36%), Spain (13.27%), Romania (12.3%), Slovakia (11.20%). Amongst the 12 countries, the following are under the average: France (8.3%). UK (9.40%), Germany (8.12%), Italy (7.41%).

*Policy, Regional Economy*. In the subfield of *European Management*, we have grouped the courses into the following types: *European Management*, *European Business*, and *Eastern European Management*. In the subfield of *Europe and the Global Economy*, we have grouped the courses into the following types: *European Integration and Global Economy* and *European Marketing*.

The curricular database of the five subfields has been the support needed to seize the development of curricula in EU Economic Studies through internal elements contributing to its development – dynamics of specializations where it is taught, the role of mobility in various ways for crossing the disciplinary (transdisciplinary) and national (transnational) borders, the role of NTC in developing the EU Economic Studies curricula.

It is the same curricular database that has helped us follow the EU Economic Studies curricula development depending on external stimuli: evolution of curricula according to the European agenda and its level of knowledge, the impact of Jean Monnet Action/Programme in developing the European Studies curricula in the field.

## **1. Role of internal stimuli (internal drivers) in developing EU Economic Studies curricula**

### **1.1. EU Economic Studies as Disciplinary Framework**

#### **1.1.1. At the BA level, the EU Economic Studies curricula are diversified.**

More often than not, they contain the *European Economy* subfield comprising the *European Economy* basic course entitled as such particularly in France and Germany<sup>3</sup>. Just like Germany and Italy, this course covers half of the EU Economic Studies courses. Sometimes, they have resembling titles. They are mostly entitled *Economy of the European Union*, particularly in Spain (23 courses)<sup>4</sup>, *European Economic Issues*<sup>5</sup>, *Economy and European Economic Policies*<sup>6</sup>, *European Economic Integration*<sup>7</sup>, *European*

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<sup>3</sup> *European Economy* (Université de Savoie; Université Lumière Lyon; Université de Perpignan; Université Méditerranéen - Aix-Marseille 2; Université Toulouse 1 Capitole; Université de Versailles Saint- Quentin- en- Yvelines; Université Nancy 2; Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale; Université Lumière Lyon; Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7); Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne; Université Paris 8; Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne; Université de Rennes 1; Université de Bourgogne – Dijon; Université de Rouen; Université de Rennes 2 - Haute Bretagne (France); Fachhochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin; Universität der Bundeswehr München; Universität Siegen; Universität Osnabrück; Universität Regensburg (Germany); Università degli studi di Macerata, Università degli Studi di Brescia, Università di Urbino "Carlo Bo", Università degli Studi di Verona, Università degli studi di Parma

<sup>4</sup> Universidad de Almeria/Universidad de Granada / Universidad de Sevilla / Universidad de Zaragoza / Universidad de Salamanca/ Universidad Católica de Avila/ Universidad de Burgos / Universidad de Leon / Universidad de Murcia / Universidad de Oviedo / Universidad de Rioja / Universidad Pompeu Fabra / Universidad Complutense de Madrid / Universidad Publica de Navarra / Universidad de Extremadura / Universidad Jaume I / / Universidad de Valencia / Universidad de Coruna / Universidad de Vigo / Universidad La Laguna; Universidad Santiago de Compostela

<sup>5</sup> Université Lille 2 Droit et Santé; Université Paul Verlaine – Metz; *Economic Structure of the European Union*, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela; *European Political Economy* (Università degli Studi di Milano; Università degli Studi di Cagliari)

<sup>6</sup> Université de Perpignan; *Macroeconomic Policy in Europe - New Challenges* (Freie Universität Berlin); *Restructuring, Recapitalization and Insolvency in Europe* (Katholische Universität Ingolstadt-Eichstätt)

*Economic Organisation*<sup>8</sup>, *Economy of the European Communities*<sup>9</sup>; *European Economic Environment*<sup>10</sup>, *Analyses & Perspectives of the European Economy*<sup>11</sup>, *Economic Expansion and Growth of the Contemporary Europe*<sup>12</sup>. Frequently, *European Economy* is taught with the course *International Economy*<sup>13</sup>, *National Economy*<sup>14</sup> and *European Law*<sup>15</sup>. In Italy, *History of European Economy*<sup>16</sup> is largely taught. It is still in Italy that *European Economy* is taught in combination with Agrarian Policy or Policy for Regional Development<sup>17</sup>.

Within the subfield of *European Economy*, some types of courses do not exist at all (*European Labour Market* – France), while others have a low number of courses: *European Market and Monetary Policy*<sup>18</sup>. In Spain, the course on *European Labour Market*<sup>19</sup> is well-developed. In Germany and Italy, particularly course *European Market and Monetary Policy*<sup>20</sup> have been developed.

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<sup>7</sup> Universidad de Burgos / Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona / Universidad de Oviedo; Universität Karlsruhe; *Fondements économiques de l'intégration européenne* Université Lille 2 Droit et Santé

<sup>8</sup> Université de Rennes 1

<sup>9</sup> Universidad de Leon / Universidad de Alcala / Universidad de Oviedo / Universidad de Vigo

<sup>10</sup> Université Jean Monnet - Saint Etienne; *European Economic Area* (Universidad de Leon / Universidad de Vigo); *Europe's Economical Space* (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover)

<sup>11</sup> Université de Cergy-Pontoise (France); Universidad CEU San Pablo (Spain); *Economic and Structural Support in Europe: Köhasionspolitik and Cross-Border Cooperation* (Universität des Saarlandes)

<sup>12</sup> Universidad de Las Islas Baleares

<sup>13</sup> Université de Provence - Aix-Marseille 1; Université de Picardie Jules Verne; Université de Nice Sophia-Antipolis; Universidad de Murcia; *International Economy: Economy of the European Union* (Universidad de Alicante); *European International Economy* (Università degli Studi di Cagliari)

<sup>14</sup> *Spanish Economy in the European Union* (Universidad de Alicante); *Introduction to the Problems of the European National Economy* (Universität Siegen); *Economy and Society in Germany and Europe* (Universität Osnabrück)

<sup>15</sup> *European Law and Economic Policy* (Libera Università di Bolzano)

<sup>16</sup> *History of European Economy* (Università degli Studi di Trento; Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Università degli Studi di Milano); *History of European Economy and Politics* (Università degli Studi di Verona)

<sup>17</sup> Università degli studi di Macerata; Università di Urbino "Carlo Bo"; Università degli Studi di Genova

<sup>18</sup> *L'Union économique et monétaire et ses implications pour les économies nationales; Le Marché intérieur européen* (Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne); *Etudes des marchés européens* (Université de Rouen); *Le Marché et le Client Europe* (Université de Nantes); in Spain: *Rights and economic freedoms in the European Union* (Universidad de Alcala); *European economic and monetary union* (Universidad Complutense de Madrid / Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia)

<sup>19</sup> *Labour market in Spain and the European Union* (Universidad de Almeria / Universidad de Granada); *Analysis of the public sector in the European Union* (Universidad de Alicante); *Freedom of movement within the European market* (Universidad de Valladolid); *Labour Taxation in Spain and EU* (Universidad de Murcia)

<sup>20</sup> *Ability for Competition and European Domestic Market* (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen); *European Insurance Markets* (Fachhochschule Köln); *Taxation and Tax Planning in the European Union* (Universität Mannheim); *Financing in Europe; European Subsidies Policy & Award Procedure* (Technische Fach-Hochschule Wildau); *Capital Market and Bank Supervision Right in Europe* (Universiät Paderborn); *Selected Topics in International*

BA students acquire knowledge regarding regional economies, too<sup>21</sup>: *Euro-Mediterranean Economy and Politics*<sup>22</sup>, *Cultures and Economies of Eastern European Countries*<sup>23</sup>.

In universities from EU newcomers, the field of EU Economic Studies has weigh in the European Studies curricula. For instance in Poland, EU Economic Studies come in second from the point of view of the number of courses (after EU Political and Administrative Sciences), while in Romania they come in third. The structure of the courses resembles the ones existing in EU countries with tradition. Yet, there are particularities, such as the predominance of courses in *European and International Economy* and *EU Structural Funds*, as in the case of Poland<sup>24</sup>.

The *European Management* subfield holds an important place in the EU Economic Studies curricula. In Germany, over one third of the courses belongs to this category and is mainly made up of *European Business*<sup>25</sup> and *Eastern Management*<sup>26</sup>, which are taught at specializations in Economics and Business and other interdisciplinary specializations. An almost similar situation is encountered in the UK and Denmark. Instead, in France, Italy or Spain, the *European Management* subfield is less represented at the BA level, as there are few courses in Business (management)<sup>27</sup>. In the new EU Member States, the *European Management* subfield is not very present. Where it exists, it

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*Relations: Finances of the European Union* (University of Mannheim); *State, Market and the Non-profit Sector. Analysis in the German and European Comparison* (Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz); *Monetary Policy of the European Central Bank* (Otto-Friedrichs-Universität Bamberg); *Theory of Money and the Policy of the European Central Bank* (Technische Universität Carolo-Wilhelmina zu Braunschweig); *European Economic and Monetary Policy in EU* (Università degli Studi di Milano); *Monetary Policy in EU European Financial Markets* (Università di Pisa)

<sup>21</sup> *Regional Economy in Europe* (Universidad de Cantabria)

<sup>22</sup> Université Paul Cézanne - Aix-Marseille 3

<sup>23</sup> Université de Cergy-Pontoise

<sup>24</sup> In Poland there 20 courses only on EU structural Funds: *EU structural funds* (Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski Jana Pawła II; Politechnika Rzeszowska, Politechnika Świętokrzyska; Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Politechnika Koszalińska); *Programs and projects of the European Union* (Politechnika Gdańska); *EU Funds as instrument of stimulation of development of Polish regional and local community* (Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Poznaniu); *Acquisition of EU funds* (Politechnika Łódzka); *Programs and EU funds* (Politechnika Rzeszowska, Uniwersytet Śląski, Uniwersytet Wrocławski); *European funds for enterprises* (Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Poznaniu, Uniwersytet Gdański); *EU funding opportunities for business; Evaluation of investment projects according to EU standards* (Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Krakowie); *Preparation of projects sponsored by European Union* (Politechnika Wroclawska); *Regional policy and structural funds* (Higher School of Economics in Kutno); *Programs and Projects of European Union* (Politechnika Gdańska)

<sup>25</sup> *The Business Environment - in English language* (Hochschule Aachen); *Business Locations in the EU* (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin) *Networking and Business Relations in Europe* (Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus); *Between Success and Bankruptcy: Business Strategies of Early Entrepreneurs in Western Euro* (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg)

<sup>26</sup> *Companies and Markets in Middle- and Eastern Europe* (Hochschule Aachen); *Economy of Russia and East Europe* (Munich Business School); *Business Concepts and Developments in East Europe* (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

<sup>27</sup> *Economie industrielle internationale européenne* (Université Paul Cézanne - Aix-Marseille 3); *The business market of the European Union* (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia); *Management and administration of the European Union* (Universidad de Malaga)

is represented by European funded project management (Poland, Romania) taught at other specializations. Course *European Business*<sup>28</sup> are taught only in Lithuania.

*Europe and the Global Economy* subfield is best represented in the BA curricula in Germany and the UK. Just like the case of the *European Management* subfield, most courses are in *Economics* or *Business*<sup>29</sup> specializations, while others are in different specializations, particularly technical. There are no such courses at the BA level in France, Italy and Spain. In the new EU Member States, there are few BA courses in this subfield. In Poland, it is absorbed by International Economic Relations<sup>30</sup>.

**1.1.2. Master's degrees in Economics comprise much more diversified curricula in EU Economic Studies in certain countries, such as France, Spain, Italy, Poland, and Romania.** Instead, in Germany and the UK, the curricula in EU Economic Studies for MA in Economics or Business are reduced as compared to the curricula in the field of European Studies (UK)<sup>31</sup> or other fields, such as the case of Germany<sup>32</sup>. However, Master's degrees in Economics and Business here have a high economic perspective.

EU Economic Studies curricula are highly diversified in France, Spain, and Portugal in MA in Economics, particularly through courses of *Applied European Economy*<sup>33</sup>, *European Market and Monetary Policy*<sup>34</sup>, *European Management*<sup>35</sup>, *European*

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<sup>28</sup> Kauno universitetas

<sup>29</sup> The course on *European Integration and Global Economy* is taught at Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Dresden. Yet, it has other titles, too: *Europe and International Trade* (Freie Universität Berlin); *The external commercial policies of the European Union* (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg);

<sup>30</sup> *International economic relations* (Uniwersytet Warszawski, Wyższa Szkoła Integracji Europejskiej in Szczecin); *International economic relations in Eastern Europe* (Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej in Lublin)

<sup>31</sup> In UK, we have identified only two courses: *European Development Economics* (Kingston University, European Real Estate (Immobilia MA); *European Business in a Globalised Context* (De Montfort University, Leicester Business School Graduate Centre, specialization in International Business and Management)

<sup>32</sup> *Regulation of Markets and Competition in Europe* (Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft Berlin); *Varieties of European Economics Systems* (Universität Mannheim); *European Economic System and Social Order* (Universität Oldenburg).

<sup>33</sup> *Economie européenne; Environnement économique européen* (Université de Rennes 1); *Économie européenne; Économie de la réglementation européenne* (Université d'Auvergne); *Économie européenne* (Université du Sud Toulon Var); *Economie européenne* (Université Paul Verlaine - Metz); *Economie de l'intégration européenne* (Université de Rennes 1); *Développement économique et Union Européenne* (Université Jean Monnet - Saint Etienne); *Aspects économiques de l'Europe* (Université de Limoges); *Economic Governance in the EU* (Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour); *Etudes de marché II et Environnement européen; Environnement commercial européen - Approche des marchés internationaux* (Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV); *Economie politique européenne* (Université de Strasbourg); *Économie européenne approfondie* (Université Paul Cézanne - Aix-Marseille 3). In Spain we find: *Economy of the European Union* (Universidad de Salamanca, Universidad Pompeu Fabra Barcelona); *Economic analysis of the European Union* (Universidad Pontificia Comillas); *European economic integration* (Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Universidad Cantabria); *European economic policy and coordination of instrument; Redistributive economic policies in the EU* (Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona); *The economic (and social) of the European Union* (Universidad del Pais Vasco); *Spanish and European Union economy* (Universidad de Oviedo); *EU Economics and Institutions* (Universidade da Beira Interior; Universidade de Évora); *European Economy* (Uniwersytet

*Business*<sup>36</sup>, *European Integration and Global Economy*<sup>37</sup>, and *European Marketing*<sup>38</sup>. Master degrees in International Management<sup>39</sup>, Human Resource Management<sup>40</sup>, Economics Business in European and Firms Strategies<sup>41</sup>, French-Polish Cooperation and European Policies<sup>42</sup> provide substantial courses in EU Economic Studies.

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Kazimierza Wielkiego w Bydgoszczy; Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej); *Economic System: The position of the Polish economy in EU* (Uniwersytet Wrocławski)

<sup>34</sup> *International Banking and European Finance* (Université de Strasbourg); *European markets* (Université de Caen; Basse-Normandie); *La TVA intracommunautaire et internationale; Le marché et la Monnaie Unique* (Université Montpellier 1); *Fiscalité des sociétés dans l'Union Européenne, traitement fiscal des revenus de source européenne des sociétés françaises* (Université de Bourgogne - Dijon); *Finance internationale et européenne; Fiscalité intercommunale* (Université Toulouse 1 Capitole); *Budgets européens et nationaux* (Université de Rennes 1); *Analyse des marchés européens* (Université d'Auvergne); *Monnaie et capitaux en Europe* (Université Paul Cézanne - Aix-Marseille 3); *The European Union budget* (Universidad de Zaragoza); *Tax system of the European Union* (Universidad de Alcalá); *Trade and Investment in the European Union* (Universidad Pontificia Comillas); *The budget and protect the financial interests of the European Union* (Universidad Católica de San Antonio); *Internal market and Economic and Monetary Union* (Universidad de Salamanca); *Economic structure, fiscal and monetary system in the EU* (Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca); *Taxation and foreign trade in the EU* (Universidad de Castilla La Mancha); *EU Monetary budgetary and fiscal Policy* (Universidade Lusófona de Humanidades e Tecnologias de Porto); *Monetary Union Economics; Single Market Economics* (Universidade de Coimbra; Instituto Piaget de Viseu); *The banking system of the EU* (Uniwersytet Rzeszowski.); *The single European market* (Uniwersytet Łódzki.)

<sup>35</sup> *Financial risk management in Europe* (Université de Rennes 1)

<sup>36</sup> *European Business Realities* (Université Jean Moulin Lyon); *HRM: flexibility management and transformations of work links in the European Union* (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3); *European Economy Structure* (Université de Savoie); *Environnement économique des entreprises européennes et internationales* (Université du Maine); *Competition and economic regulation in the Single European Market* (Universidad CEU San Pablo); *European Economics and Intrenational business* (Universidade de Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro); *Entreprise in Poland in Context of European Integration* (Academy of Economics in Białystok); *European projects - industries* (Uniwersytet Szczeciński)

<sup>37</sup> *Économie des espaces euro-méditerranéens* (Université du Sud Toulon Var); *Controlling: how to link local and global perspectives of european companies* (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3); *Economic Development and Social Change in Latin America and the European Union* (Universidad de Alcalá); *Globalization and European Integration* (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)

<sup>38</sup> *International marketing in Europe* (Université Blaise Pascal - Clermont-Ferrand)

<sup>39</sup> Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3, MA International Management (*Management et Affaires Européennes; Environnement juridique européen des affaires; Finance: corporate governance and value creation in European companies; Strategic management: flexibility, outsourcing, mergers as strategic actions of European companies; Management dans les pays d'Europe Centrale et Orientale – PECO; Risks Management and Subtainable Development in Europe*)

<sup>40</sup> Université de Rennes 1, MA in Human Resource Management (*Négociation et relations de travail en Europe; Environnement économique et Europe des affaires; Gestion des risques financiers des entreprises européenneennes; Analyse et diagnostic financier d'entreprises européennes; Marketing de domaines en Europe*)

<sup>41</sup> Université Paris-Sud 11, MA Economics Business in European and Firms Strategies (*European Financial Markets; Innovative Firms in European Union; Firms Location in European Countries*); Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, MA in Sciences de Gestion (*Panorama des dispositifs d'aide européenne en matière de développement économique; Insertion du modèle*

Although substantial, the EU Economic Studies curricula in Italy are standardized. The course in *European Economy* covers over half of the number of courses either as *European Political Economy*<sup>43</sup>, or as *European Integration Economy*<sup>44</sup>.

The MA in EU Economic Studies curricula in Poland comprise over half of the courses in the field of *European Management Funds*<sup>45</sup>, thus continuing the educational policy at the BA level aiming at educating Polish students to manage European funded programmes and projects. At the MA level, the content is more thorough and diversified.

In the case of the EU Economic Studies curricula at the MA level in Romania, there is much heterogeneity devoid of a coherent direction. They are extremely mimetic to outside models<sup>46</sup>, sometimes doubling the curricula at the BA level. The fact that there are several courses of Applied Economics at private higher education institutions is not always supported by the content<sup>47</sup>. Unlike Poland, where the focus is on financial issues

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*européen au sein de l'économie monde KBS; Panorama des dispositifs d'aides européennes et conseil en affaires européennes)*

<sup>42</sup> Université de Strasbourg provides the following courses: *Economie politique européenne; Coordination nationale aux affaires européennes*

<sup>43</sup> Università degli Studi di Siena; *European Economy Programmation* (Università degli Studi di Bari); *EU Economics* (Università degli studi di Bergamo; Università della Calabria); *South East Europe Transition in Economy* (Università di Bologna)

<sup>44</sup> Università degli Studi di Firenze, Università degli Studi di Genova, Università degli Studi di Milano; *European Economic Integration Process* (Università degli Studi di Bari)

<sup>45</sup> *European management* (Uniwersytet Szczeciński) *Management in the united Europe and human resources* (College of Management and Administration in Opole); *EU project management* (Uniwersytet w Białymstoku); *The legal base of obtaining and management of the European Resources in Poland; Methodics of project management( management project and risk management, evaluation, control, project monitoring; Informatical instruments in project management* (Uniwersytet Opolski); *Public finances in EU* (Athenaeum School in Gdansk, Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, Uniwersytet Łódzki; Uniwersytet w Białymstoku; Uniwersytet Szczeciński); *Financial instruments in EU* (Uniwersytet Opolski); *EU Structural Funds* (Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego, Uniwersytet Szczeciński; College of Management and Administration in Opole, Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej); *European Territorial Cooperation Project Programs External Cooperation of the EU; Educational programs and youth of the EU* (Uniwersytet Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej); *Funding and support programs of the EU; Preparation of projects for the European Union* (Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu); *EU funding opportunities for businesses; Procedures for obtaining EU funds* (Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Krakowie); *Study of Feasibility of Investment Project EU; Monitoring and evaluation of structural funds EU; Funds and projects of European union* (Academy of Finance and Management in Białystok); *Project preparation - enclosure(business plan); Prognosis and simulation; The promotion of the projects which will be financed; The financial control with the budget instruments of the project management* (Uniwersytet Opolski)

<sup>46</sup> *European Economy* (Universitatea "1 Decembrie 1918", Alba Iulia, SNSPA București, Universitatea Ovidius Constanta; Universitatea "Dunarea de Jos" Galati; Universitatea de Vest Timisoara), *Economy of the European Union, Micro economy from European perspective* (Universitatea de Vest Timisoara), *European Micro economy; European and Monetary Union* (ASE București).

<sup>47</sup> *European Finances, Fiscal System in the EU* (Universitatea "Transilvania" din Brasov), *European Public Finances, European Fiscal System* (ASE București; Univesitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza Iași), *European Union Finances, Economic and Monetary Union and Fiscal Politics in the EU; Single European Market and the adhesion Negotiations; External Trade and the Custom Union in*



and European projects management, at the MA level in Romania we can find very few courses of this type<sup>48</sup>. In fact, four universities in Romania concentrate over half of the curricula in EU Economic Studies at the MA level (ASE Bucharest, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University from Iasi and the West University from Timisoara).

In other two new EU Member States (Lithuania and Slovakia), we find the same diversity of courses in the EU Economic Studies curricula at the MA level with some slight difference in point of better applicability of courses in Economy in the case of Lithuania.

**1.1.3. At the doctoral level,** the EU Economic Studies curricula are limited as courses offered and reduced in point of number. Out of them, a small number of courses are provided within the EU Economic Studies as Disciplinary Framework, particularly in countries with tradition: France, Germany and even the UK. In these countries, course EU Economic Studies are provided in an interdisciplinary system. A different situation is in Spain, where over half of the courses making up the curricula in EU Economic Studies as Disciplinary Framework are provided to students in Economics. There are strong EU Economic Studies doctoral centres, such as the University of Castilla la Mancha and University of Santiago de Compostela<sup>49</sup>. In Central and Eastern Europe, courses of EU Economic Studies are provided only in doctoral schools in Economics. Thus, in Poland, there are doctoral schools providing courses in EU Economic Studies at the University of Wroclaw, University of Economics in Krakow, Maria Curie-Sklodowska University in Lublin, Higher School of Public Administration in Bialystok, Business School of Warsaw. In Romania, these courses are provided at the Academy of Economics in Bucharest, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University from Iasi and the West University from Timisoara, and in Slovakia at the “Comenius” University in Bratislava.

**1.2. From the point of view of EU Economic Studies as Multidisciplinary Framework** (European Studies Programmes), the curricula in EU Economic Studies together with the curricula in EU Legal Studies should provide an applicative perspective to this field of studies.

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*the EU* (Universitatea din Oradea), *European Financial System* (Universitatea Ovidius Constanta); *The instruction-research-innovation funding. European Strategies* (Universitatea de Vest Timisoara); *Accounting in accordance with European Directives and the IFRS referential* (Universitatea "Dunarea de Jos" Galati); *The evaluation and the audit of European Projects* (Universitatea Ovidius Constanta); *Management of European Structural funds* (Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza Iasi)

<sup>48</sup> *Fundamental Mechanisms of the European Single Market; European Financial Market; European Business Models on the European Market; Marketing competitive strategies on the European Single Market* (Universitatea Crestina Dimitrie Cantemir București); *The risk in the management of European and International business* (Universitatea “Spiru Haret București)

<sup>49</sup> *Urban infrastructures and municipal governance during the 19th and 20th centuries: politics and economics of local Administration in Europe and abroad* (Universidad de Granada); *Economic convergence in the territories of the European Union; Economics of Education in the European Union; Employment, labour market and social regulation in Europe Monetary Policy in the European Union;* (Universidad de Castilla la Mancha); *European Economy* (Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona); *Financial power and European Union; European Economy: A technical and econometric analysis; Tax harmonization in the European Union* (Universidad Santiago de Compostela); *European economic integration* (Universidad de Cantabria); *Tax harmonization in the European Union* (Universidad CEU San Pablo)

**1.2.1. Bachelor degree.** Unfortunately, at the BA level, things are a little different considering that there are different perspectives regarding the field of *European Studies*. In the UK, the curricula of this field only seldom contain course EU Economic Studies, considering that *European Studies* have developed in connection with Foreign Languages or Political Sciences.<sup>50</sup> In France, Germany, Lithuania, and Slovakia there are course EU Economic Studies in the *European Studies* curricula only rarely<sup>51</sup>. In Italy and Belgium, there is no course in EU Economic Studies in the BA curricula in *European Studies*. In Denmark<sup>52</sup>, Poland<sup>53</sup> and particularly Romania, course *EU Economic Studies* are always present in the curricula<sup>54</sup>.

**1.2.2. Master's degree** in the field of European Studies is more open to course EU Economic Studies. Master's degrees focused on research mostly tend to courses in the field of *European Economy* (Belgium and UK)<sup>55</sup>. Professional master's degrees tend more towards practical courses in the subfields of *European Management* or *Europe and Global Economy*. Certainly, there are specific trends differing from one country to another. For instance, in Poland there still is a curricular policy in Economics with particular attention to European Funds Management course MA level in European Studies. In Portugal, course *European Economy* on MA level in European Studies are very numerous and varied in

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<sup>50</sup> Only University of Dundee provides the course on *Economics of the European Union*,

<sup>51</sup> In France, only Université Toulouse 1 Capitole- BA Etudes de l'Union Européenne provides the courses on: *L'Europe des opérateurs économiques*; *L'Europe des échanges économiques*. In Germany, Universität Osnabrück provides the courses on *Economy and Society in Germany and UniEurope* and *European Economy*. In Slovakia, Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave provides the course on *Economic Policy in the EU*

<sup>52</sup> In Denmark, Aalborg Universitet and Aarhus Universitet provide the courses on *The Political Economy of European integration*, and Syddansk Universitet in Odense teaches *Economics of International Integration*

<sup>53</sup> In Poland there is a course on *European Economy* at Uniwersytet Kazimierza Wielkiego w Bydgoszczy; *Management of projects sponsored by EU* at Kozminski University in Torun; *Economic Integration in Europe* (Uniwersytet Rzeszowski, Uniwersytet w Białymstoku)

<sup>54</sup> In Romania, the Romania Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education has stipulated specific compulsory standards for the specialization in *European Studies* and a course on *World Economy*, mostly dedicated to European economy ([www.aracis.ro/uploads/media/Standarde\\_specifice.pdf](http://www.aracis.ro/uploads/media/Standarde_specifice.pdf)). In Romania, there are universities that have introduced further courses besides the specific standards: "Babes-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of European Studies, teaches *L'Europe économique dans le contexte de la mondialisation*, National School of Political and Administrative Sciences in Bucharest, Department of International Relations and European Studies, teaches the course on *European Single Market*

<sup>55</sup> In Belgium, the European Studies Institute of Université Catholique de Louvain has an MA in *Analyses of the European Structure* teaching courses on *Economic Concepts of European Integration* together with other theoretical courses on *Political Concepts of European Integration* and *Social and Cultural Concepts of European Integration*. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven teaches courses on *Economic Aspects of European Integration*. In Belgium, we have approached courses taught at *College of Europe* in Bruges. In UK: *European Business and the Environment* (University of Westminster, MA in European Studies); *Political Economy of the EU* (London South Bank University, MA European Policy Studies); *Contemporary European Management* (University of Essex, MA European Integration) *European Political Economy*; *European Emerging Markets* (University of Birmingham, MA International Studies (General Programme) MA/Diploma; *European political economy* (University of Bath, MRes European Social Policy); *European Studies and Economics*; *European Studies and Business* (University of Dundee, MA European Studies)

point of topics focusing mainly on course EU Funds<sup>56</sup>. At Comenius University in Bratislava in Slovakia, there is a substantial course pack on *EU Economic Studies* provided to students in MA in European Studies<sup>57</sup>. In France, although the course *EU Economic Studies* are mentioned in the European Studies curricula, they represent a little over 10% of the total number of course EU Economic Studies. They are diversified and can be found in the curricula of both research and professional Master's degrees<sup>58</sup>. We have a similar situation in Germany, yet the number of courses is very low<sup>59</sup>.

**1.2.3. Doctoral studies in the field of European Studies** generally are seldom found in the assessed countries, considering that *European Studies* are considered a subfield of Political Science. In other countries, *European Studies* are perceived more through European Law, European Economy and History of European Construction. There are very few Doctoral schools exclusively in European Studies. In the new EU Member States, doctoral studies in *European Studies* are connected to one or another of the EU Studies traditional fields.

**1.3. From the point of view of EU Economic Studies as Interdisciplinary Framework**, there are some general elements. On the one hand, its association to other study programmes has led to diversification of course areas offered to students. On the other hand, out of the three levels of studies, the MA in EU Economic Studies has flexible and dynamic curricula.

### 1.3.1. Bachelor degree

Curricula in EU Economic Studies can be found in the curricula of different study programmes (Political Science, Law, Social Sciences, Geography, Humanities, Linguistics, technical fields).

In France for example, course EU Economic Studies can be found mostly at technical and scientific fields (Applied Mathematics)<sup>60</sup>. In Germany, these courses can be

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<sup>56</sup> Economic and Monetary Union and co-ordination of economic policies; Community funds; The European Economic building process (Universidade Católica Portuguesa); EU Economic foreign relations; EU public finances (Universidade do Minho); EU Economic Policies; EU fiscal and financial policies (Universidade Lusíada)

<sup>57</sup> *European Financial Markets; Regional Economy & Policy; International Economics*

<sup>58</sup> The MA in European Studies has the following courses: *Dynamique de l'unification monétaire européenne* (Université de Provence - Aix-Marseille 1); *Economie européenne*; *Economie de l'Union économique et monétaire*; *Relations économiques extérieures de l'Union européenne* (Université Pierre-Mendès-Grenoble); *Gouvernance économique et régulation financière dans l'Union européenne*; *L'Europe économique dans la mondialisation*; *Dynamiques économiques et sociales dans l'UE* (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3); the MA in Etudes Européennes et Affaires Internationales has the course on *Stratégie économique et financière au niveau européen* (Université de Cergy-Pontoise); the MA in Etudes européennes interdisciplinaires has courses on *Economie européenne*; *Milieux d'affaires et intégration européenne*; *Analyse économique du droit européen* (Université de Strasbourg); the MA in Études Européennes et Internationales has the course on *La fonction de stockage dans l'Union européenne* (Université de Bretagne-Sud)

<sup>59</sup> *Varieties of Capitalism in Europe* (Universität Osnabrück); *Cultural and Institutional Analysis of European Economic Systems* (Passau Universität); *European Economy* as a two-semester fundamental courses (Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen)

<sup>60</sup> *Economie européenne* (Université de Rennes 2 - Haute Bretagne); *Connaître l'entreprise européenne* (Université de Rennes 1; Université d'Auvergne)

found in different study programmes, such as: Political Science, History, Geography, Cultural Studies, Eastern European Studies, Social Sciences, and Engineering<sup>61</sup>. In the UK, these courses are only seldom present, only as part of a programme of study: Law, Social Sciences, and Politics<sup>62</sup>. In Italy, there are course EU Economics delivered particularly to students in Law, Political Sciences and Agricultural Sciences<sup>63</sup>.

In the new EU Member States, EU Economic Studies are less present in the curricula of other programmes of study except for Poland, where there is a substantial course pack, particularly at technical universities. Besides course *European Economic Integration*<sup>64</sup>, special attention is paid to course Introduction to European Management Funds<sup>65</sup>.

### 1.3.2. Master's degree

On MA level, EU Economic Studies curricula are present within the curricula of other study programmes from Social Sciences, Political Science, Law, Geography, Humanities, and Linguistics to technical programmes.

For instance, EU Economic Studies courses are an important support to Master's degrees in Law or specialised Master's degrees in UK<sup>66</sup>. In Germany, there is a smaller

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<sup>61</sup> *State, Market and the Non-profit Sector. Analysis in the German and European Comparison* (Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz, BA Political Sciences); *Selected Topics in International Relations: Finances of the European Union* (Universität Mannheim, BA Political Sciences); *Between Success and Bankruptcy: Business Strategies of Early Entrepreneurs in Western Europe* (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, BA History); *Cooperation in the Baltics* (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, BA History); *Europe's Economical Space* (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover, BA Geography); *Business Location in EU* (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, BA Geography). *The external commercial policies of the European Union* (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, BA English Culture); *Political Institutions of the Economy of Central and Eastern European Countries* (Universität Regensburg, BA Law); *Economic and Structural Support in Europe: Kohäsionspolitik and Cross-Border Cooperation* (Universität des Saarlandes, BA Linguistics); *Economic Structures in Eastern Europe* (Fachhochschule Würzburg-Schweinfurt, BA Industrial Engineering); *Economy of Russia and East Europe* (Hochschule München, BA Russian and Eastern European Business Studies); *European Project Management* (Fachhochschule Dortmund, BA Social Sciences); *Macroeconomic Policy in Europe - New Challenges, European and International Policy* (Freie Universität Berlin, BA Political Sciences)

<sup>62</sup> *The Single Market of the European Union* (Kingston University, BA Law); *European Economics* (Durham University, BA Economics with Politics/French); *European Business; European Economy* (Glasgow Caledonian University)

<sup>63</sup> *European Economic and Monetary Policy in EU* (Università degli Studi di Milano); *European Economy and Institutions* (Università degli studi di Parma); *European Economy and Agrarian Policy* (Università degli studi di Macerata); *European Agricultural Policy* (Università di Urbino)

<sup>64</sup> Politechnika Gdańska; Politechnika Koszalińska; Politechnika Łódzka

<sup>65</sup> *Management of EU Projects* (Politechnika Białostocka; Politechnika Łódzka; Politechnika Rzeszowska) *Programs and projects of the European Union* (Politechnika Gdańska) *Account the efficiency of European projects; Polish regional and local community EU Structural Funds* (Politechnika Koszalińska); *Acquisition of EU funds* (Politechnika Łódzka); *EU Funding* (Politechnika Rzeszowska; Politechnika Świętokrzyska)

<sup>66</sup> *Internal Market of the European Union* (University of Westminster, LLM European Union Law); *Intellectual Property and the European Internal Market* (University of Leicester, MA Law); Kingston University has courses on *European Real Estate Investment Practice; Sustainable European Built Environment; Sustainable European Built Environment* together with the course on *European Built Environment Law* make up a pack specialised for an MA in European Real Estate;

number of course MA level as compared to BA level<sup>67</sup>. In France, there are 23 Master's degrees in Law teaching course EU Economic Studies<sup>68</sup>. To this we may add the technical field, territorial management, applied European languages<sup>69</sup>, as well as human resource management using the new technologies of information and communication<sup>70</sup>. In Portugal, EU Economics courses are taught within the Master's programmes in Law, particularly at the University of Coimbra. We can find the same trend in Spain. This trend is stressed by the presence of relating master's degrees<sup>71</sup>.

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<sup>67</sup> *Varieties of European Economics Systems* (Universität Mannheim, MA Sociology); *European Sponsoring* (Hochschule Heilbronn, MA Management in Sport)

<sup>68</sup> *Économie monétaire et système financier européen* (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, MA Law); *Fiscalité internationale et européenne* (Université d'Orléans, MA Fiscalité internationale et européenne); *Fiscalité internationale et communautaire* (Université de Rouen, MA Droit des affaires et fiscalité); *Economie européenne de l'assurance* (Université Lille 2 Droit et Santé, MA Droit des assurances); *Economie et financement de l'audiovisuel – Etude interne et communautaire* (Université Jean Moulin Lyon, MA Droit du Cinéma, de l'audiovisuel et du Multimédia); *Economie européenne* (Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV, MA Droit communautaire et européen); *Investissements financiers dans l'espace euro-méditerranéen et aides aux entreprises*; *Économie dans l'espace euro-méditerranéen* (Université du Sud Toulon Var, MA Droit de la coopération économique dans l'espace euro-méditerranéen)

<sup>69</sup> *Economie des transports en Europe* (Université de Versailles - Saint Quentin en Yvelines, MA Sciences et techniques du génie logistique); *European accounting and financial analyses*; *European economics, human resources & legal environment*; *European Marketing and logistics* (Université de Rennes 1, MA chimie - matériaux et entreprise); *Économie des espaces euro-méditerranéens* (Université du Sud Toulon V, MA Entreprise Développement et Territoire); *Economie de l'Europe centrale et orientale*; *Economie de l'Union européenne* (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, MA Gestion des territoires et Management des Organisations); *Gestion de projets européens* (Université de Toulouse II-Le Mirail, MA Informatique des organisations - Nouvelles Technologies de l'Informatique pour l'Entreprise (N.T.I.E)); *La Communauté économique* (Université de Caen Basse-Normandie, MA Expert projets Européens au service du développement local); *Mode d'entrée sur les marchés européens* (Université Jean Moulin Lyon, MA Langues Etrangères Appliquées); *Comptabilité communautaire comparée* (Université de Limoges, MA Langues Etrangères Appliquées au Management interculturel); *Economie européenne internationale* (Université de Valenciennes et du Hainaut Cambrésis, MA Langues et Commerce International)

<sup>70</sup> Université Rennes 1 has one MA in Human Resources - developement of competences of management ; it teaches the following courses: *Négociation et relations de travail en Europe*; *Environnement économique et Europe des affaires*; *Gestion des risques financiers des entreprises européennes*; *Analyse et diagnostic financier d'entreprises européennes*; *Marketing de domaines en Europe*. Université Joseph Fourier – Grenoble has an MA in Territorial Science teaching the course *Jeu de simulation économique (modèle MACSIM appliqué à l'Europe)*

<sup>71</sup> *Globalization and European Integration*; *Budget and Taxation of the European Union* (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, MA European Union Law), *Tax system of the European Union* (Universidad de Alcalá, MA Law); *Economic structure, fiscal and monetary system in the EU* (Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, MA Law) *The European Union budget* (Universidad de Valladolid, MA Law); *European economic policy and coordination of instrument* (Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, MA International Relations, Security and Development); *Economy of European Integration and International*; *European economic policy instruments and Coordination* (Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, MA Political Sciences).

In the new EU Member States (Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia), EU Economic Studies are barely present in the curricula of other programmes of study with a few exceptions in the case of Poland<sup>72</sup> and Slovakia<sup>73</sup>.

### **1.3.3. Doctoral studies**

EU Economic Studies are seldom present in doctoral schools in different fields. They are mostly associated with EU Legal Studies (in Germany and France) and EU Political and Administrative Studies (Belgium, France, Italy, and UK). It is important that interdisciplinary doctoral schools shall be established in the future where EU Economic Studies may be present together with EU Legal Studies as theoretical and practical basis.

## **1.4. The role of mobility in various ways for crossing the disciplinary (transdisciplinary) and national (transnational) borders**

### **1.4.1. EU Economics Studies curricula within the Law Disciplinary Framework**

Generally, on a BA level, the EU Economic Studies curricula are compatible particularly with EU Legal Studies and certain courses from EU Political and Administrative Studies, especially the course on *European Economy* or *Economy of European Integration*. On the other hand, EU Economic Studies curricula have strong transnational imprint, as the national perspective is present in very few cases (France or Germany). There are many forms covering the same area. There is also a strong transnational interdependence. Unfortunately, compatibility with other fields of EU Studies is lost here.

In the case of doctoral studies, we have seen that transdisciplinary mobility has the lowest level out of the three. Even though there are countries whose universities develop bilateral or multilateral research programmes, their number is too low to state that doctoral studies in EU Economic Studies have a transnational dimension.

### **1.4.2. EU Economic Studies curricula within the Multidisciplinary Framework**

EU Economic Studies curricula within the Multidisciplinary Framework (European Studies Programme) have a transdisciplinary profile at all levels of study, considering that, on the one hand, most courses belonging to this programme belong to *European Economics*, so that they complete other subjects belonging to this programme: Political Science, Public Administration, Economics. On the other hand, within the Multidisciplinary Framework, the EU Economic Studies curricula can diversify their profile by converging with other subjects belonging to the abovementioned programme of study.

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<sup>72</sup> *Economical integration in Europe* (Politechnika Koszalińska); *EU financial market; Control of EU funds; Tax systems of EU countries*, (Politechnika Gdańska); *Sector of Financial Service in EU; Mechanisms of Internal Market and Finance in EU* (Politechnika Krakowska).

<sup>73</sup> In Slovakia, the following three universities teach courses: Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, MA in Law, teaches the course on *EU Economy & Economic Relations*; Slovenská poľnohospodárska univerzita v Nitre, MA Regional development teaches the course *EU Economic Integration*; MA in Management of Development of Rural Area & Rural Tourism teaches the course on *EU Economic & Social Policy* and *Financing the EU Projects*; MA Protection Against Natural & Economic Disasters teaches the course on *EU Crisis Management*; Trenčianska univerzita A. Dubčeka, MA Human Resources teaches the course on *EU Economic Policy*

The transdisciplinary distance between BA and MA levels is not very great. Thus, within the Multidisciplinary Framework the EU Economic Studies curricula are actively involved in the process of curricular Europeanization through double diploma, student mobility within the Lifelong Learning Programme, and European Master's degrees. Consequently, the EU Economic Studies curricula involved in Multidisciplinary Framework have a high level of flexibility. We could state that out of the three types of programmes, the Multidisciplinary Framework brings to the foreground the idea that EU Economic Studies should have dynamic, flexible and open curricula.

Unfortunately, the number of doctoral schools in European Studies is limited. The existing doctoral schools in the field have either a social political perspective, or a historical one. Consequently, *EU Economic Studies* do not have room in the curricula of this level of studies, which does not allow us to formulate value judgements.

#### **1.4.3. EU Economic Studies curricula within the Interdisciplinary Framework**

The presence of EU Economic Studies in the curricula of study programmes in different fields making up an academic curriculum in the twelve countries that have been assessed shows a transdisciplinary profile as high as the Multidisciplinary Framework. However, unlike the latter, the former is much more diversified as it can be provided at all levels of study. This underlines not only the flexibility of EU Economic Studies; it also shows its openness. There is a supplementary note of flexibility and dynamics favouring MA studies as compared to BA studies in this case, too. The presence of EU Economic Studies in the curricula of Interdisciplinary Framework is a substantial premise to provide a transnational character to the field. The educational European market, particularly on MA level, has transnational master's programmes with the participation of EU Economic Studies, particularly in fields such as Social Work, Public Administration, Commerce, or Human Resource Development. The place of EU Economic Studies in the curricular structure of certain interdisciplinary doctoral programmes is very low with a few exceptions for the fields of Political Science and Social Sciences.

#### **1.5. Using NITC in the development of the European Studies curricula in the aforementioned fields**

EU Economic Studies is a field that is very fit to applying ICT in curricula development. There still is much to do to overcome the traditional teaching framework and to adopt active methods of teaching. However, out of all EU Studies fields, EU Economic Studies is the most active in this direction, as there are already adapted simulation programmes. Games can be made, such as: *European Project Management*<sup>74</sup>; *Macroeconomic Policy in Europe - New Challenges*, *European and International Policy*<sup>75</sup>; *European Project Management*<sup>76</sup>. There are master's programmes especially designed to value the NITC<sup>77</sup>.

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<sup>74</sup> Fachhochschule Dortmund, BA Social Sciences

<sup>75</sup> Freie Universität Berlin, BA Political Sciences

<sup>76</sup> Université de Toulouse II-Le Mirail, MA Informatique des organisations - Nouvelles Technologies de l'Informatique pour l'Entreprise (N.T.I.E)

<sup>77</sup> Université de Rennes 1 has the MA in Human Resources - developement of competences of management ; it teaches the following courses: *Négociation et relations de travail en Europe*; *Environnement économique et Europe des affaires*; *Gestion des risques financiers des entreprises européennes*; *Analyse et diagnostic financier d'entreprises européennes*; *Marketing*

Considering these examples in the European curricula in the field of EU Economic Studies, we can state that there is a need to largely introduce NITC in developing EU Economic Studies curricula in both its monodisciplinary and multidisciplinary forms and particularly in its interdisciplinary dimension.

## **2. Developing EU Economic Studies curricula according to external stimuli**

### **a. Evolution of the EU Economic Studies curricula according to the European agenda**

It is difficult to follow the development of EU Economic Studies curricula depending on the European agenda. This difficulty is determined by several elements. We have to say that our research has been based on collecting course titles in EU Economic Studies in the curricula of universities from twelve countries. We therefore have no possibility to access the individual content of each course to see the extent to which it is adapted to the European political and knowledge agenda. However, the titles of the courses for the academic year 2008/2009 have permitted us to see the degree of adaptation of the EU Economic Studies curricula to the process of European integration.

For instance, the process of *EU Enlargement* and the new evolution occurring at the EU borders in the context of the release of the *European Neighbourhood Policy* has stimulated the content of the curricula in EU Economic Studies. France and Germany have interests in this field to introduce course *Eastern European Management* on both BA and MA levels<sup>78</sup>. The issue of opening the European economy internationally, the phenomenon of economic globalisation, and the development of new types of economy (social, virtual) are current topics integrated in the EU Economic Studies curricula. Nevertheless, we cannot have an optimistic view on the issue of adjusting the curricula to the European agenda, considering that the weight of new adapted courses is low as compared to the curricula. This shows that there is much potential in a field that is supposed to be the most dynamic of all EU Studies fields.

### **b. To which extent are the EU Economic Studies curricula adjusted to changes in the European labour market?**

Courses in EU Economic Studies provide students with specialised knowledge able to solve issues as close to reality as possible. If courses in *European Economy* or *European Economy Integration* subfields generally provide theoretical background, courses in *European Management* and *Europe and the Global Economy* subfields generally provide applied knowledge. An important element is represented by European funds management, a field greatly appreciated in countries such as France, Poland, or Slovakia. Adjustability of EU Economic Studies to labour market is best seen in the content of *European Management* and *Europe and the Global Economy* subfields. The fact that these courses have a rather heavy weight in the EU Economic Studies curricula

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*de domaines en Europe*. Université Joseph Fourier – Grenoble has an MA in Territorial Science teaching the course on *Jeu de simulation économique (modèle MACSIM appliqué à l'Europe)*

<sup>78</sup> *Économie des espaces euro-méditerranéens* (Université du Sud Toulon Var). Université de Strasbourg has MA *Politiques Européennes et Coopération Franco-Polonoise*. Université « Jean Moulin 3- Lyon, MA in International Management, has the course on *Management dans les pays d'Europe Centrale et Orientale – PECO*; *South East Europe Transition in Economy* (Università di Bologna)



(an average of over 40%) is an important indicator in assessing the compatibility of the field with the requirements of labour market.

If we analyse the way in which courses in EU Economic Studies may contribute to providing a culture of local, regional, national, European and global community, we can notice that the curricula in EU Economic Studies focus on the European dimension in correlation with global dimension at the BA level (e.g. Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain and UK) in association with local dimension (e.g. France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain). We can notice that there is a low association with national dimension (except for Germany and Poland).

At the MA level of EU Economic Studies curricula, we can notice a higher variety of approaches where global dimension is accompanied by local or regional dimensions (e.g. France, Germany, Italy and UK).

The EU Economic Studies curricula contribute to promoting important values on labour market at all levels of study, such as individual and organisational initiative, corporatist responsibility combined with individual and social wellbeing.

Course in EU Economic Studies contribute to providing quality culture by developing specific competences.

At the time of approaching the issue of providing culture and developing competences in the field of EU Economic Studies, we have to envisage some core elements in the field:

- a) Applicability of acquired knowledge: we have to envisage the acquisition of core information in the field, turning to the practical side and applying the acquired information;
- b) The ever changing geopolitical context where we can approach three great types of changes on a global level: changes in the business sciences, changes in the business world, and changes in international relations.

Six strategic choices<sup>79</sup>:

- dedicated degree programmes for different target groups
- integrated knowledge of the economic, social and biophysical context of business processes
- anchoring of education in the business context where students will be employed
- focus at the development of creative, empathic and analytical abilities of managers
- development of intercultural communicative competence
- contribution to community development through lifelong learning

### **c. Impact of the Jean Monnet Action in developing the EU Economic Studies curricula**

Out of the external stimuli with important impact in developing EU Economic Studies, we can mention the Jean Monnet Action. In fact, previous surveys have mentioned the role of the Jean Monnet Action in stimulating the establishment of Jean Monnet structures (modules, permanent courses, chairs and centres) in the field of EU Economic Studies. For instance, Celine Belot and Claire Brachet in their 2004 survey showed that in the year 2004, European Economy held the second place on the level of Jean Monnet structures distribution with 42% out of the total number of such units throughout the 15 EU Member States and the first place in EU candidate countries with 31% out of the total number of Chairs Jean Monnet (Belot and Brachet 2004: 153).

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<sup>79</sup> <http://sites.google.com/site/icbmbangkok2/ICBME.2008.Herman.Van.den.Bosch.RP.pdf>

Our analysis reveals the fact that 265 teaching structures (modules, permanent courses, chairs and centres) were funded until 2009 throughout the twelve countries we have assessed. The field of EU Economic Studies comes in second, with 21.81% out of the total number of funded projects. If we make the relation between the number of teaching structures and the number of courses of EU Economic Studies we have identified during our assessment for the academic year 2008/2009, we can notice that 4.66 courses correspond to one structural unit (module, permanent course, chair and centre) funded by the Jean Monnet Action (JMA). *EU Economic Studies* hold the first place from the point of view of the impact of the Jean Monnet Action on the development of the field.

If we analyse the impact from the point of view of curricular development in each of the twelve countries assessed by us, through the relation courses/JMA unit, we have the following situation: major impact countries (1-5 courses/JMA unit): Italy = 1.62, Poland = 1.97, Spain = 2.49, Denmark = 4.15; optimal impact countries (5-10 courses/JMA courses): United Kingdom = 5.20, Slovakia = 5.40, Romania = 5.42, France = 6.43, Germany = 7.71; medium impact countries (10-15 courses/JMA unit): Portugal = 10.02; low impact countries (over 20 courses/JMA unit): Belgium = 27.57, Lithuania = 38.

Due to this comparison, we can notice the fact that the JMA impact is highly differentiated amongst the assessed countries, from 1.62 in Italy to 38 in Lithuania. EU newcomers belong mostly in the group with the JMA major impact (Poland = 1.97, Slovakia = 5.40 and Romania = 5.42), except for Lithuania. This shows that there are no positioning differences due to the gap in the process of curricular integration in the field of EU Economic Studies amongst the EU newcomers as compared to other countries from the point of view of the JMA impact. Positioning impact differences are determined by internal stimuli favouring the development of one field or another. For example, in countries such as Portugal, Belgium and Lithuania, EU Economic Studies come in second as compared to other fields of European Studies. On the other hand, this positioning is owed to national specifics in curricular structure, in general.

## Conclusions

In the academic year 2008/2009, EU Economic Studies curricula held the fourth place in point of number of courses in programmes of study provided by the assessed universities throughout the twelve assessed countries and the second place in point of number of structures supported by the Jean Monnet Action (2009). Together with EU Legal Studies, they belong to curricula meant to provide a practical character to EU Studies curricula in general.

Although it has been divided by us into three subfields – *European Economy*, *European Management* and *Europe in the Global Economy* – the EU Economic Studies curricula are rich in slight differences and difficult to standardize. They are very flexible and dynamic. Their development has been mainly determined by the action of internal stimuli, first by monodisciplinary programmes of study (Economics, Business, Management, etc.), then by interdisciplinary programmes and then by multidisciplinary programmes.

An important imprint in developing EU Economic Studies curricula is represented by external stimuli. The European agenda has influenced the development of new courses, particularly to respond to processes of *Enlargement*, and *European Neighbourhood Policy*. The new changes on labour market have imprints on developing the EU Economic Studies curricula. Yet, as stressed in the text, there still are unexploited reserves – particularly in the new EU Member States – so that this field might really be a spokesperson of students' practical training.

This field has been favoured from the point of view of the impact of the Jean Monnet Action on EU Economic Studies curricula. Yet, the idea that curricular development may keep up with the convergent action of internal and external stimuli is still a desideratum.